

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US99/23793

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) : A47B 83/00

US CL : 108/50.02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 108/50.02, 50.01, 64; 312/223.6, 194, 195

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 4,639,049 A (FRASCAROLI ET AL) 27 January 1987 (27/01/87), see entire document.	1-79N
A	US 4,807,540 A (PRIESEMUTH) 28 February 1989 (28/02/89), see entire document.	1-79
A	US 4,762,072 A (BOUNDY ET AL) 09 August 1988 (09/08/88), see entire document.	1-79
X	US 4,852,500 A (RYBURG ET AL) 01 August 1989 (01/08/89), see entire document.	1-11, 18-38, 64-79
A	US 4,870,908 A (WOLTERS ET AL) 03 October 1989 (03/10/89), see entire document.	1-79
A	US 5,037,164 A (WEISSENBAACH ET AL) 06 August 1991 (06/08/91), see entire document.	1-79

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.
 ☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	*T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	*X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
E earlier document published on or after the international filing date	*Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	*Z* document member of the same patent family
O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
15 FEBRUARY 2000	06.03.2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231
Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer
José V. Chen
JOSÉ V. CHEN
Telephone No. (703) 308-2168

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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5,078,055 A (BELLINI ET AL) 07 January 1992 (07/01/92), see entire document.	1-79
A	US 5,522,324 A (VAN GELDER ET AL) 04 June 1996 (04/06/96), see entire document.	1-79
A	US 5,673,632 A (SYKES) 07 October 1997 (07/10/97), see entire document.	1-79
A	US 5,704,298 A (CORPUZ, JR. ET AL) 06 January 1998 (06/01/98), see entire document.	1-79
A	US 5,791,259 A (MANSFIELD ET AL) 11 August 1998 (11/08/98), see entire document.	1-79
A	US 5,752,449 A (SIMON ET AL) 19 May 1998 (19/05/98), see entire document.	1-79
A,P	US 5,899,025 A (CASEY ET AL) 04 May 1999 (04/05/99), see entire document.	1-79
A, P	US 5,943,966 A (MACHADO ET AL) 31 August 1999 (31/08/99), see entire document.	1-79